



Halloween 2020 Guidance for Families and Organizations during COVID-19

The challenges that we have faced as a community continue into autumn and will affect the activities that occur. One of the biggest event days for young and old alike is Halloween and the tradition of Trick or Treating. We have received numerous requests for guidance asking what is safe and what is not. The following guidance will hopefully provide the answers that you are seeking. You are the final judge about what you believe is safe and your level of participation. Our role is to provide you the information to make your decision that will result in you being able to enjoy as safe a time as possible with your family.

1. Do not give in to peer pressure. Mom's & Dad's this means you too. If a youngster isn't well DO NOT allow them to participate in events. If you are not well DO NOT participate. This is the first and most important health safety tip – remember if you are sick stay home and away from others.
2. Be attuned to the current COVID-19 conditions in the County and communities. The Health Department will make a public statement about illness rates in the community on October 28, 2020 that will be able to help you assess the risk in Trick or Treating. Check our web site, Facebook page and the paper for that update.
3. Make the events more family centric – in other words keep the groups smaller in size (6 or less) and accompany your children if you choose to engage in neighborhood activities. Since it's Halloween wear a mask!!!! Even if you hate it and think its silly do it – Hey it's Halloween.
4. School related activities are generally pre-planned with health and safety in mind and are not a greater concern than attending school. Let the kids enjoy these events if scheduled.
5. Attend organized events like the Trunk or Treats, and merchant events where numerous health and safety conditions are going to be incorporated into the events and will have been reviewed in advance of the event.
6. Haunted houses that are conducted locally will require that groups are small and likely related (i.e. families) and will require spacing and the wearing of masks – please be patient and follow the rules to make those events work.
7. Avoid attending and please do not host large gatherings – we are not trying to be a killjoy, but seriously parties are a no go. Please, please, please... Don't do it. Some of the larger clusters of COVID-19 cases have occurred due to social gatherings – don't be part of "THAT" event.

We hope that you stay safe, make smart choices and enjoy Halloween 2020 – it's been a scary year!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has some additional guidance which can be found by visiting their website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>